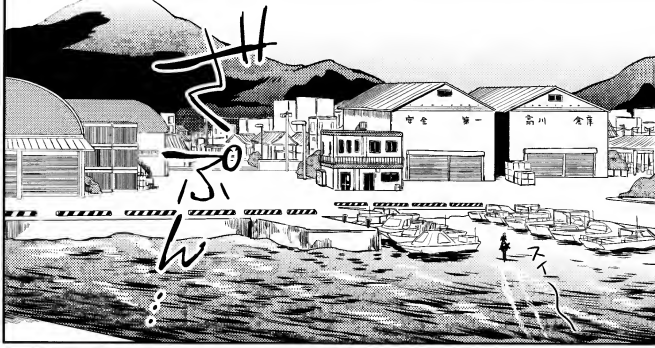
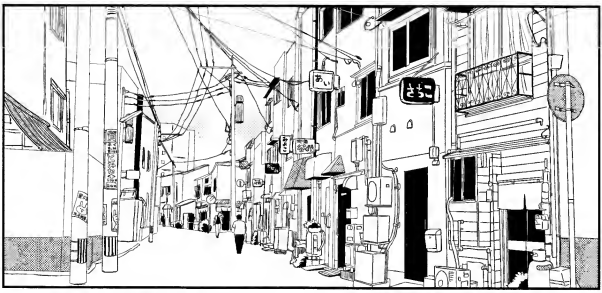
暁に踊れ!
あかつき
おど

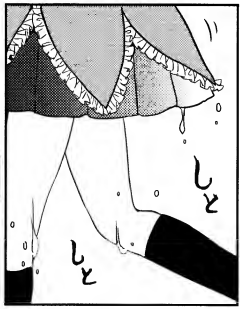
Abyssal Ships
...The incarnation of malevolent memories possessed by ships sunk in the past war.
That is what humanity has called them. In fear of them.
If this unsubstantiated claim were to be believed, however, this would instead give rise to another question.
ボ

Dance until Dawn


ぷかぷか
スー



Wait, wait, hold on... So why am I walking on land? I mean, what's up with this body? I'm a ship. A vessel. Or was anyway. Hold on, why am calling myself "I"?
Glad I found land... Lucky me. It sure looks like Japan, but...
I'm like, human...


しと
しと

Hey, what do you think that is?
Oh, uh.
Maybe she's cosplaying or something?
Oh!
ヒソ
ヒソ
Huh?
Wait.
Am I standing out?! But why?!
じろ
じろ
ヒソ
ヒソ
ぴょん
ゴゴゴ
ガチャ
ガラ
Whew
かくし
かくし
Oh man, what I am going to do.
Should I like, try to act human and blend in? But even if I do blend in, what am I...
Uh hey.

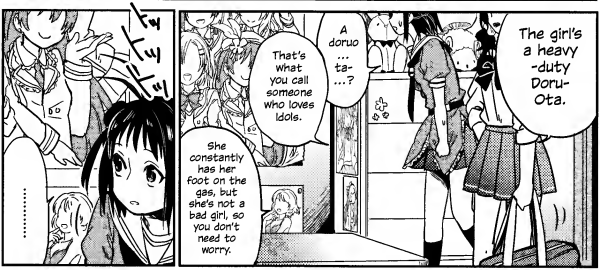
What are you doing?
Hah!?
Um-,
I-
??
If you need something at port, you should check with Town Hall... So, who are you?
Well, I don't really need anything...
あっせ
あっせ
I-I'm... Naka... of the Sendai... class...
Miss Sendai-class?
Thats a funny last name.
Oh, no, Sendai's the name ship, and uh, I'm the third ship of the...
キョトン
?
?
?
.....Please just call me "Naka"...

So Naka-chan! I've never seen that uniform before... Where are you from?
Well, um... I was above the sea before I knew it, and I somehow got here on my own, but, um...
I don't know where I should-... I don't even know what's going on, and...
もじもじ
S-Sorry... I really don't understand it myself either...
ぼそ...
Sounds like she might be an accident victim or somethin'. ...Seems pretty disoriented too.
Why don't you come to my place?
Nnegh !?
バン!!

Huh? Wait, I don't-
Don't worry! It'll be fine
I'm sure my folks would understand if I ask.
……
ぽん
Wh-Wha-uh
Let's eat first, and then calm down! Sounds like a plan, right?
I'm Asuka Suganami.
Nice to meet you!
Kiyoe Kamada. A pleasure.
ぽわーん
… H- …
Hi ……

Uh-huh.
I'm home!
Eatery and Pub
Suganami
Hello~
Got a crowd today, huh? What are we, a nursery?
Pardon me ...
Oh c'mon Uncle, don't be such a grouch.
Hey Kiyoe, could you take Naka-chan upstairs?
Okay.

Wow
...
LOVE TOUR 2053
Asuka
Go ahead and sit.


The girl's a heavy-duty Doru-Ota.
A doruo ... ta-...?
That's what you call someone who loves Idols.
She constantly has her foot on the gas, but she's not a bad girl, so you don't need to worry.
.....

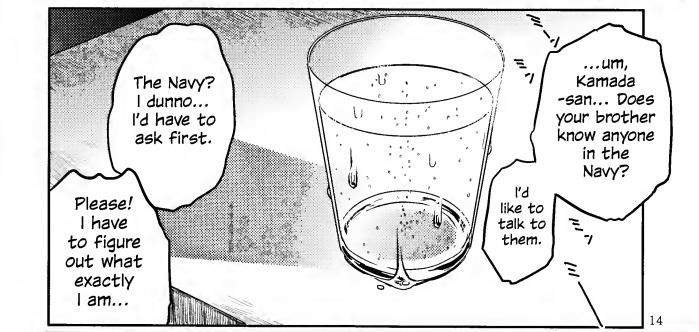
So hot out there...
Heeey, lookie. Got some soda.
Uncle's gonna make us some fried rice, so wait a bit, okay?
Here you go.
... Hoah ...

I asked Uncle, but he says there haven't been any news about Abyssal attacks on civilian ships.
Hmm... Maybe the story just hasn't broken out yet or somethin' ...
Maybe we should tell someone.
... Umm ...
Are you sure it was okay for me to be here ...?
Huh? Of course! Both Uncle and Auntie said stay as long as you'd like!
Um ...
Your "Aunt and Uncle"? Don't you mean your "Mother and Father"?
My parents died when I was nine.
Attacked by the Abyssals.
Oh hey, it's okay.
Ah, about that... Ya see ...

So uh, I guess that would make it eight years ago?
They both worked with a transport company, but during one of their voyages... you know.
So my Uncle and Auntie's taken care of me ever since.
CRAP... I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT
SOMETHING INSIDE ME FEELS AS HEAVY AS LEAD
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT

WHAT WERE THESE GIRLS DOING AT THE PORT IN THE FIRST PLACE ...?
..... WAIT A MINUTE
Hey, Naka -chan !?
WHAT IS THIS. WHAT! WHAT AM I DOING HERE. WHAT SHOULD I-. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
I-I'm sorry!
I didn't mean to get a jump on you with something like that.
AND WHAT THE HECK IS THIS BEATING AND THUMPING SOUND!?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ALL OF THIS ...!? THE ABYSS-ALS?
RIGHT... I HAVE TO CALM DOWN... GET MY BEARINGS ...
...Um What's today's date and year? If I could get in touch with the people I was with ...
... Oh.
Uh, 23 July, 2053.
Two thou -...!!
... NOW I GET IT
NO WONDER PEOPLE ARE ACTING SO DIFFERENTLY
BUT NOW WHAT THE HECK AM I GOING TO DO...
... You know, maybe we should take her to the hospital after all.
And the police too.
Or... town hall? Or the Military Police... nah, probably wouldn't be the right place.

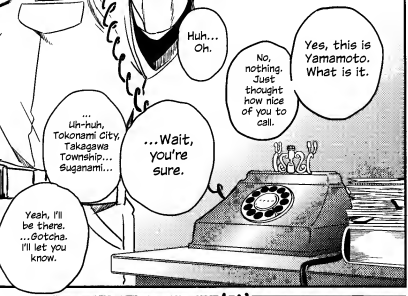
Wait. Did you just say, "Military Police"?
Does that mean the Army's still functional!?
Wha-, y-yeah, of course ...
My brother's an officer there...
.....
And the Navy!?
Well, yeah. Sort of ...


...um, Kamada -san... Does your brother know anyone in the Navy?
I'd like to talk to them.
The Navy? I dunno... I'd have to ask first.
Please! I have to figure out what exactly I am...

Naka -chan, are you with the Navy!?
... Yes,
But... not exactly.

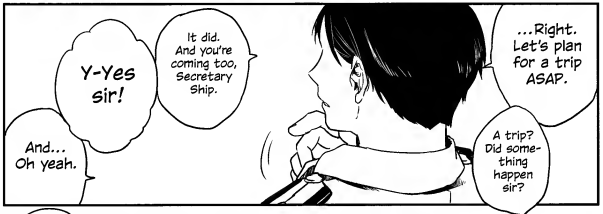
I don't know why I'm here.
But my memories, they're crystal clear.
... Please, would you relay them the following words?
"This is Naka, third ship of the Sendai-class Light Cruisers."
"I've returned."

きゃっきゃっ
わいわい
Hey!
If you're going out to play, make sure to go to the docks first to wash up!
Okaaay!
トタトタ
Hahaha! So cute. Hard to believe it's all thanks to them that we're now able to fight toe-to-toe with the Abyssals.
カメラ
チャッ
Hm.
And to think that we might meet many more ship girls in the future. I kind of look forward to it.
There's a call from Lt. Col. Kamada of the Army for you!
Com-mander!
Like, how we might protect the girls' lives as human beings, or how we'd explain to the public of their existence, things like that.
Some thing wrong, sir?
Nothing ...
It's just that, we have to deal with an increasing number of things to think about,


Huh... Oh.
Yes, this is Yamamoto. What is it.
No, nothing. Just thought how nice of you to call.
...Wait, you're sure.
Uh-huh, Tokonami city, Takagawa Township... Suganami...
Yeah, I'll be there. ...Gotcha. I'll let you know.

Kamada?
Wonder what's up all of a sudden... I don't remember doing anything.
Oh, could it be the dinner bill from last time? ...Nah, I'm pretty sure we split that one ...

ガチャ…


...Right. Let's plan for a trip ASAP.
A trip? Did something happen sir?
It did. And you're coming too, Secretary Ship.
Y-Yes sir!
And... Oh yeah.

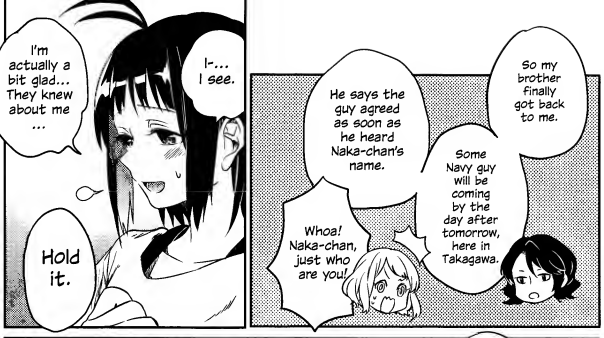
Samidare, I want you to come as well.
Wh-, me?
Yup.

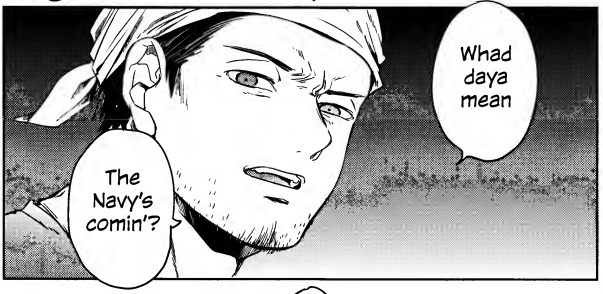
Let's go meet
the former flagship of Des-Ron4.
……!
バン
バン
バン
バン

Some-thing's wrong in the harbor?
Yeah, it's like every damn fish have gone missin' from the seas 'round here. Not even a single bit of catch!
And the ones in the fishtanks are going crazy too, gettin' tears and scratches everywhere.
I mean, what the hell is goin' on?
Ma'am!
Hmm. That's a bit of a problem ...
Those empty boxes, I've left them out back-!
Oh, thank you so much Naka-chan.
But you really didn't have to.
It's nothing... it's already been at your home for two weeks, this is the least I could do ...
Fufu, and you're a great help!
Asuka-chan's always looking happy now too, thanks to you listening to her about her Idols.
Uh... You think so...?
Naaa-kaaa-chan!

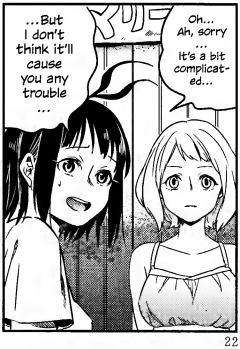
C'mon, sing with me Naka -chan!
Eeh ...
C'mon, hurry!
Hey, is Naka -chan joinin in?
Awesome!
Goodness.
Those two look like real life Idols!
Yeah, maybe they'll take top spot. In a kindergarten festival that is.
Oh, come on dear.

Good evening.
Oh, Kiyoe-chan. Welcome!
Sorry, they started singing just now. You might need to wait.
ジェウウウ
That's okay. I'm just glad they're having fun.
They've been like that ever since summer vacation started. A bit too lax is what I'd say.
Haha. But I don't think you need to worry with Asuka's grades though.
I mean, she was top of the class in first semester.
In her usual demeanor too
...So, I wonder where Naka-chan's going to school.
ゴソゴソ...
...She hasn't told you either?
No...
No matter how many times I ask, all she says is "I came from the sea".
I'm glad that she can laugh like she does, even if something happened, but I'm still worried for her.
Hey, Kiyoe! Sup!
Yo.
Eveni-ng.


So my brother finally got back to me.
Some Navy guy will be coming by the day after tomorrow, here in Takagawa.
He says the guy agreed as soon as he heard Naka-chan's name.
Whoa! Naka-chan, just who are you!
I-... I see.
I'm actually a bit glad... They knew about me ...
Hold it.


Whad daya mean
The Navy's comin'?

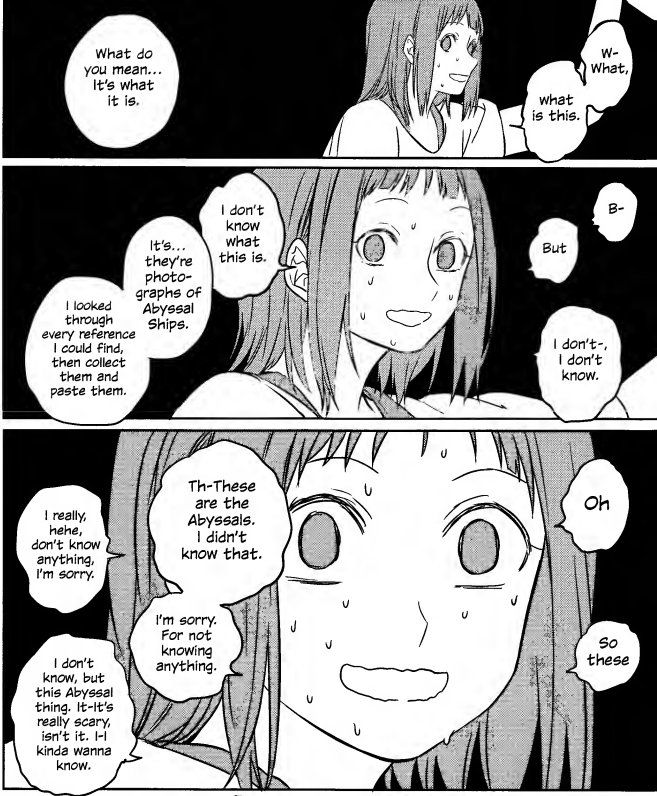
Oh! Right!
I forgot you told me the bath was ready.
I'll go jump in.
Oh... sure.


Oh... Ah, sorry ... It's a bit complicated...
...But I don't think it'll cause you any trouble ...

...I HOPE I CAN LEARN SOMETHING BY TALKING TO THEM
WHY I'M HERE ... WHY NOW ...
I'm relieved.
There's still a reason for me to be here.
ゴモ ゴモ
"The guy agreed as soon as he heard Naka-chan's name."
...
Huh ...?
There's something behind it ...
!!!

Wh-
...
Is this
...

Hey Naka-chan?
Hey, so um
Uncle now says he wants to be there the day after tomorr-
……
A-
As
……
…Why did you have to peel that back…
…I'm sorry.
I know it's screwed up.
Asuka -chan!


What do you mean... It's what it is.
W- What, what is this.
B- But I don't-, I don't know.
I don't know what this is.
It's... they're photo-graphs of Abyssal Ships.
I looked through every reference I could find, then collect them and paste them.
Oh
So these
Th-These are the Abyssals. I didn't know that.
I'm sorry. For not knowing anything.
I really, hehe, don't know anything, I'm sorry.
I don't know, but this Abyssal thing. It-It's really scary, isn't it. I-I kinda wanna know.

I wanna know, Asuka -chan
What you know
And what you're thinking.
I see the ocean in the photo.
Th-
The ocean.
Wh-
Why the ocean?

...Follow me for a bit.
ホバホバ
...Wow. Asuka-chan, you can drive boats.
ちゃぷん
I only have a Type-2 License for Small Vessels, so I can't go out too far though.
And Uncle told me never to go further than this island.
The boat used to be Dad's, but Uncle kept good care of it. I begged him to give it to me.
Uh huh...
So that's how it feels to be on a vessel...
And...
This, is my secret base.

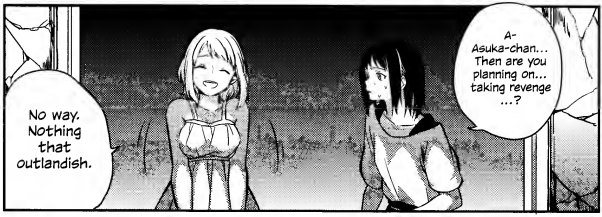
Wow ...!

Great view, right? This apparently used to be a watch post to watch over the seas.
But once the Navy built an observation station in the next town, they stopped using this place.
So I figured, if they're just gonna leave it, I might as well borrow it.

The Abyssal Ships.
"The embodiment of malice possessed by vessels sunk in a past war."
I'm looking up information on the Abyssals.
...But thanks to the stories about how getting close to them renders your soul, or that you'd stop being human, I couldn't just tell anyone.
Uncle and Auntie don't know I'm looking into it either. Kiyoe-chan knows about it though, and said she'd support it.
So, watching over the ocean out here I guess is part of it.
Oh yeah, and remember that day I met you, Naka-chan? We were on the way back from here.
So that's why... So um, those... Abyssals. What are ...?
.....!
... Or that's what public tales say, anyway.
In reality, we know nothing about them.
We don't know where they come from, why they attack human ships, and where they're gonna go.
Zilch, nothing.
But their behavioral patterns somehow resembled "fleets," and for that reason, the Navy people ended up classifying them according to old navy vessel types, naming them according to the I-Ro-Ha alphabet.
W- Wait a second.

Some people say it's part of a natural phenomenon, others say it's because they're endeared to humans so much that they eat human souls.
...
Attack might not be the right expression for it.

Ships sunk in war? Attacking, people?
That can't be ...
That can't ...


A-Asuka-chan... Then are you planning on... taking revenge ...?
No way. Nothing that outlandish.

It's true that it all began with my parents' deaths, but I'm studying only because I wanna know.
I want to reveal the mystery of those monsters.
What hides behind the confusing phenomenon?
Just what is this absurdity hiding?
That's what I'm gonna go find out.

...That's why I want to become a researcher with the Navy.
Wha-...
I thought you wanted to become an Idol, Asuka-chan...
E-h!? Me? An Idol!?
No, no-no-no! I mean sure, when I was like a little kid, but that's like a completely different world!
...W-Well, I don't think so...
I mean, you can sing, and you can dance... And you've got a great smile too, though.
Wow, wheeew. This is totally embarrassing.
But hey, that's not what I meant.
I really loved Idols, before Mom and Dad passed away, even when I was really really young... They would always show me something magical, like a shining star.
And even as things around me changed a lot, and even after I found what I want to do with my life, that didn't change.
...And that's when I realized.
My heart feeling attracted to Idols,
exists in a world outside of my own consciousness.
It has its own special place... and realized that I don't really need to put myself in that same world.

...
Thank you for telling me. About your future, about Idols.
...And thanks for teaching me about singing.
Wha,
I didn't do anything that you'd need to thank me about, though...
That's not true. I love to sing too, and that's because of you.
Aww, geez.
Naka-chan, you are SO good at makin' people happy!
Hey, wha-ahahahaha! That tickles!
A smiling Naka-chan is super-cute, and that is why... You shall smile even more!
Heck yeah!
Cute? Me?
You cute little bugger, you!

カチ
コチ
……
菅波

Fubuki and Samidare here, as well as the other girls, have told us themselves that they would fight with us.
No sir. Whether she'll accompany us or not will be up to her to decide.

Yer sayin' you're gonna take Naka-chan here, to fight them monsters at sea.
Lemme get this straight, Lieutenant comman-der.

And what's with the outfit, huh?
You tryin' to say this place ain't worth yer fancy uniforms?
I don't trust you lot, not a bit.
Like I said before, they're special. They have powers capable of fighting the abyss. Their strength often fails to fit in with our conventional wisdom.
…Seems awfully convenient, don'cha think? Kids, all of them, said yes to that?

The girls are considered members of a special operations group. As such, their current status requires us to be extremely careful,
And must stay out of the public eye.
...What a farce. This shit is over. I want you to get out.
I can't do that. I am here to ask Naka-san herself on her own decision.
.....
I said go home!
Com man der!
Your fancy fucking boats, your top-of-the-line or whatever you call it. What happened when that went up against the Abyssals?
You Navy folk were supposed to protect my brother. But you know what happened to him.
Asuka's father! Asuka's mother! The parents of the girl sittin' right there, ended up getting' murdered by those Abyssals!

I wouldn't trust a bunch of fuckwits like you, not the life or the future of single god damn girl!
You keep that shit up, and I'll throw your ass home!
Dear, please!
Uncle!
But tides will change.
The girls can fight against them. Against the Abyss!
...There's nothing I can do to refute that.
Against the malice of ship that should have been sunk.
You think I can actually fight them?
...
Naka-san. I know this isn't the best of circumstances, but I'm really happy to see you again.
But if-...
If you um, don't want to, we can just...
You were Samidare ...-chan, right?
Why do you fight a
ウウウウウウ

ウゥゥゥゥゥゥゥゥ
Emergency Evacuation
The hell ...?
Emergency Evacuation
Please stay away from the sea
!!
.... Understood.
Send Abukuma, Shirayuki and Hatsuyuki, at full speed, immediately.
What!?
No way!
I've never heard of Abyssals showing up around here!
... Abyssals have been detected off the Takagawa cape.
We will now take measures to engage the enemy.

Mr. Commander here just happens to have all his limbs left, but he could've lost an arm or two from fighting out at sea.
You should stop it there, Uncle.
God damn it. How lazy are you Navy bastards to let them in this far!
...The fish. Were they acting strange because of this ...?
If our technology worked, the world wouldn't have turned out like this.
No.
I'm just saying it's useless blaming them.
You taking their side now!?
...!
I...
I'm the one. I brought the Abyssals here...
Yes sir! Leave it to me!
Samidare, assist the evacuation of the fishing vessels. As soon as that's done, link up with Fubuki.
Yes sir!
Fubuki! Hold the line until Abukuma's flotilla arrives. We just need to get them to retreat, so don't go pursuing them too far.
In any case, I want every-one to evacuate, now!
...!? Hey, Asuka! Where are you going!

.....
Commander! Are we to deploy from the fishing port, sir?
Yeah, let's do that.
.....
Oh no!
C-
Crap!
Naka -chan, this is bad.
Asuka must be thinking about heading to that place!

ハア
ハア
ト
ッ
How is that
Pow-ered-
Wait.
What?
ASUKA!
!!!
ズザー
…ship girls?
That's how the ship girls fight. They go out to sea to combat them.
That's what we call the girls possessing the souls of military vessels.
…Kiyoe!
Good thing… I caught you…!

Fubuki will be making contact with the enemy momentarily.
...However, it's reported that the enemy force is constituted of 3 vessels, a To-class flagship, with Chi- and He-classes.
Sir, with Fubuki and Samidare alone...
Yeah... I hope they can evade as much as possible.
.....
...Mr. Commander. Would you like to go to the old observation facility too?
You can see right up to the end of the cape.
By "too," are you suggesting you're counting yourself in?
Yes. I just want to study the Abyssal Ships, no matter what.
But that's ...
No Asuka, don't!
If something happens to you, what'd you think is gonna happen to your uncle and auntie, huh?
But they're right there!
This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!
And what if you die! That's the end of it, you damn idiot!
I'd rather die doing something than live not doing anything!!

You little…
Apologies for being late.
You can give me the order to sortie.
Naka-chan!?
I'll rendezvous with the destroyer Fubuki ASAP.
Just give the word, sir.
…Okay.
To be honest, we want any help we can get.
Don't try to do the impossible
Some things are different from the fleet-to-fleet combat you're used to.
No problem.
That won't be an issue, sir.

I AM LIGHT CRUISER NAKA
WHAT OTHER REASON WAS THERE FOR MY EXISTENCE OTHER THAN TO FIGHT IN THE BATTLE FIELD?
WHAT WAS THERE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
THAT'S RIGHT... NO PROBLEMS AT ALL.
Whew
I CAN DO THIS.
ALL I NEED TO DO IS LET ALL OF THAT GO.
AND LET THE URGE TAKE OVER

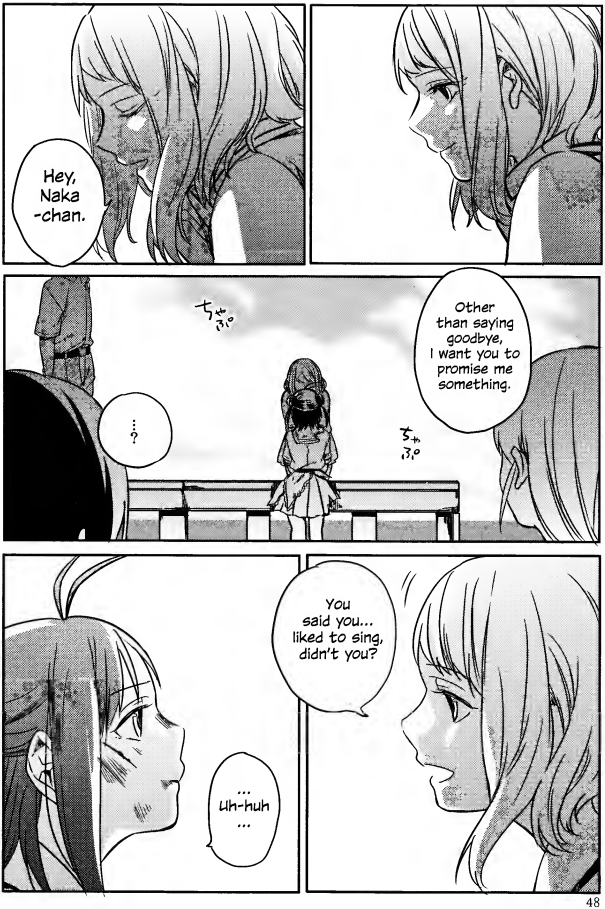
But if we use anymore ammo and can't bring it down, we won't last until Abukuma-san arrives...!
はあっ
Now we just have... The Chi-class left...!
はあっ
ドドド

ドク?
ドドド
……
Are her pain centers not working ...?

Always been wondering about some-thing.
...I've
I know keeping this stuff from someone like you would only cause more trouble.
Wha-, you're allowed to talk about that?
It appears that our body structures and theirs' differ.
?
If that rumor about the Abyssals being malice of ships sunk from past wars,
Then it'd make just as much sense for other emotions to form the same way.
...My guess, the ship girls are ...
The embodiment of hearts in opposite of hatred, huh?
...Well,
whatever the case. Mr. Com-mander.

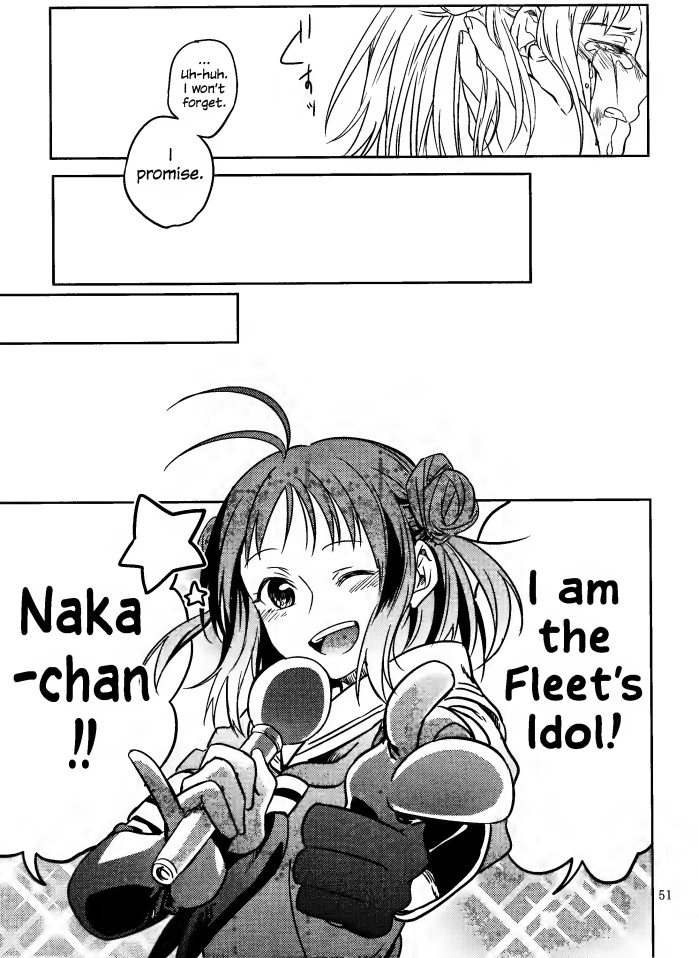
If you ever dare to use my friend as some disposable pawn, I will make sure you get what you deserve.
And I'll do it with every method available to me.
...I'll keep that in mind.

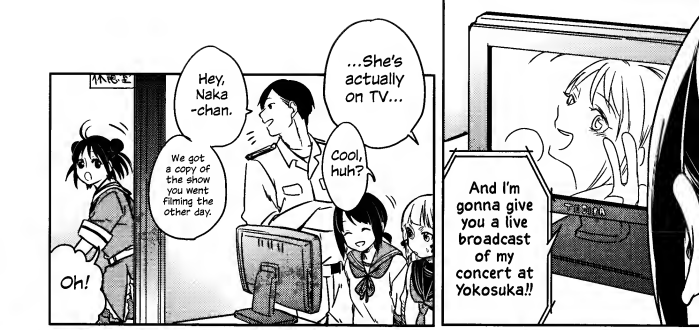
That was amazing!
Awesome, Naka -chan!
...Asuka -chan!
...Yeah. Looks like it.
So you can actually fight them off!
You looked so cool out there!
So I guess... This is good bye then.
...Yeah. I have to go.

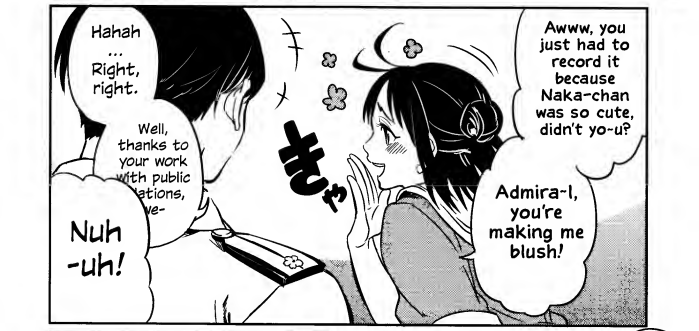

Hey, Naka -chan.
Other than saying goodbye, I want you to promise me something.
...?
You said you... liked to sing, didn't you?
... Uh-huh ...

That's probably something that wouldn't have happened when you were an actual ship, right?
.....
Uh-huh
That's what I figured, looking at who you are now, Naka-chan.
Uh-huh.
So Naka -chan ...
I want you to remember
That you have your own heart, something that belongs to who you are right now.
You can have your own self.
You can choose where you want to go, and move on.

Because we're
both alive.

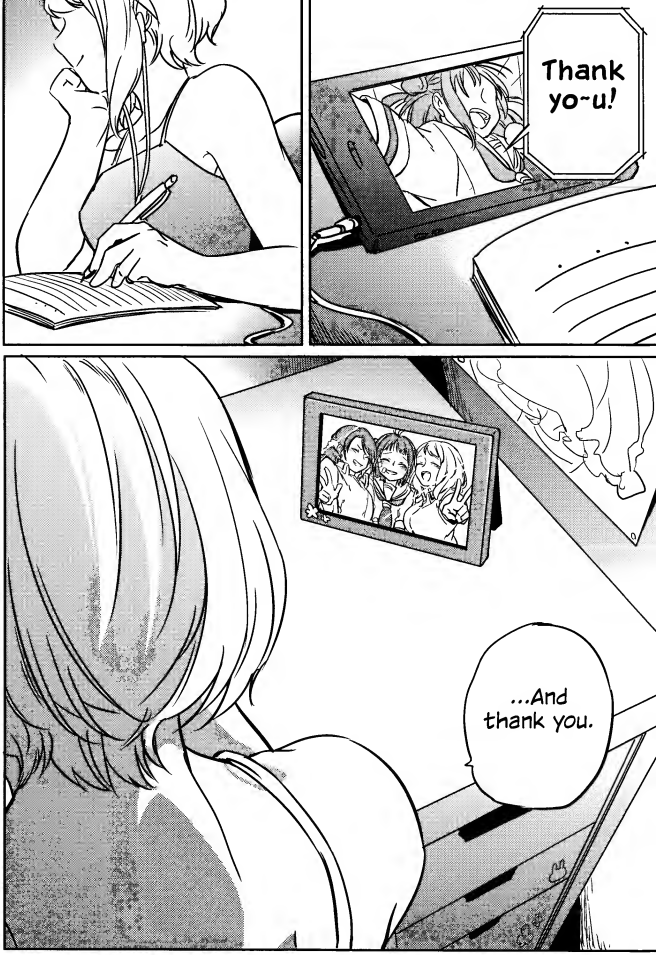

...
Uh-huh. I won't forget.
I promise.
Naka-chan!!
I am the Fleet's Idol!


Hey, Naka-chan.
We got a copy of the show you went filming the other day.
Oh!
...She's actually on TV...
Cool, huh?
And I'm gonna give you a live broadcast of my concert at Yokosuka!!

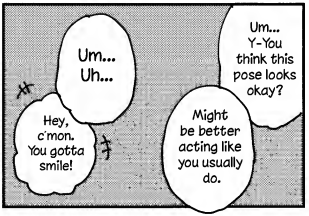

Awww, you just had to record it because Naka-chan was so cute, didn't yo-u?
Admira-l, you're making me blush!
きゃ
Hahah... Right, right.
Well, thanks to your work with public ations, ve-
Nuh-uh!

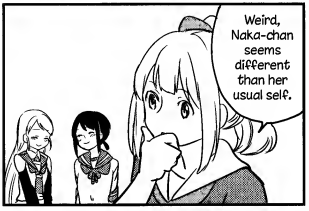
...Of course. You really are the Fleet's Idol, Naka-chan.
That's right! Well then, I'll be o-ff to work!
Naka-chan, is being an Idol

Cute as always!
Yep!
Nii...
Ooo
... Right then!
Naka-chan! Sortieing to the scene!!

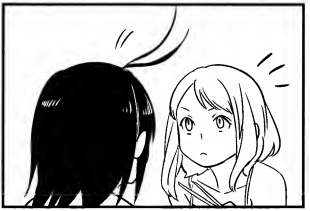

Thank yo-u!
...And thank you.

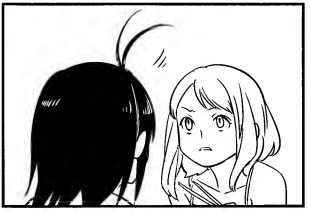
Naka-san





Thirst for Knowledge





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